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Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Elements for a plan of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons

Working paper submitted by the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Introduction

1. The total elimination of nuclear weapons and the legally binding assurance that they will never be produced again is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. To achieve that goal, nuclear-weapon States need to implement their nuclear obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and their disarmament commitments agreed upon in 1995, 2000 and 2010, including the unequivocal undertaking towards the total elimination of their nuclear arsenal. The 13 practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to implement article VI of the Treaty should be fully implemented in accordance with the principles of transparency, verifiability and irreversibility.

2. In that context, negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention that includes a phased programme and a specified time frame for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are needed.

3. The Non-Aligned Movement proposes a plan of action for the total elimination of nuclear weapons consisting of the following concrete steps and measures, particularly the negotiation and adoption of a nuclear weapons convention that includes a phased programme and a specified time frame for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, as a basis for consideration by the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The list of measures in each phase is indicative rather than exhaustive. Nevertheless, it should be understood that, in any nuclear disarmament programme, all steps and measures are mutually reinforcing and inextricably linked.

Plan of action

First phase: 2020–2025

4. Commencement of negotiations on and conclusion of an international, non-discriminatory comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, which:

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(a) Prohibits the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

(b) Provides for their destruction;

(c) Includes a single integrated multilateral comprehensive verification system to ensure compliance with the provisions of the convention.

5. Pending the conclusion of a comprehensive convention, the immediate implementation of the following measures, which include agreed steps from the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, must be undertaken:

(a) A moratorium on the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons purposes by nuclear-weapon States;

(b) The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, starting with the ratification of the Treaty by the remaining nuclear-weapon States;

(c) The cessation of all nuclear test explosions pending the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;

(d) The ending of all types of nuclear weapon tests and the closure of all nuclear weapon test sites and their associated infrastructure;

(e) The cessation of the upgrading and modernization of the existing nuclear weapon systems through new technology, including nuclear weapon research and development by nuclear-weapon States;

(f) The cessation of the role of nuclear weapons in the security doctrines of nuclear-weapon States, leading to the elimination of such a role;

(g) The provision of unconditional and legally binding negative security assurances by nuclear-weapon States to non-nuclear-weapon States;

(h) The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, in particular in the Middle East;

(i) The reduction of nuclear arsenals and de-alerting by nuclear-weapon States.

Second phase: 2025–2030

6. Acceleration of the ratification and early entry into force of the comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, which includes a phased programme and a specified time frame for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

7. Upon the entry into force of the comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, the following steps must be undertaken:

(a) The establishment of a single integrated multilateral comprehensive verification system to ensure compliance with the provisions of the comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons;

(b) The declaration by possessor States parties of their stocks of nuclear weapons and material usable for nuclear weapons;

(c) The preparation, under international auspices, of an inventory of nuclear arsenals, including fissile materials, nuclear warheads and their delivery vehicles;

(d) The separation of nuclear warheads from their delivery vehicles;

(e) The placement of nuclear warheads in secure storage under international supervision, pending the removal of special nuclear materials from those warheads;

(f) The transfer of nuclear materials, including fissile materials, to "peaceful purposes";

(g) The irreversible placement of nuclear fissile material transferred from military to peaceful uses by nuclear-weapon States under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

Third phase: 2030–2035

8. Further measures for the full implementation of the comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons and of its verification regime include:

(a) The elimination of all nuclear weapons in an irreversible and verifiable manner;

(b) The conversion of all facilities for the production of nuclear weapons to "peaceful purposes" in an irreversible and verifiable manner;

(c) The placement of all nuclear material, equipment and facilities under IAEA safeguards.